

Link 3 More Students to CIA Backing

STAT

Washington, Feb. 15 (AP)—Three more college student groups were linked today to undercover financial backing by the central intelligence agency. As the controversy mushroomed, a congressman said draft deferments have been granted leaders of one group.

The CIA remained silent on a report in the Washington Evening Star that at least four student organizations had received millions of dollars in secret aid from the nation's chief espionage agency.

The government acknowledged yesterday that the CIA had for more than a decade supplied funds to the National Student association, the country's largest student group.

Identify 3 Others

The Evening Star identified the three other groups as the United States Youth council, with headquarters in New York; the World Assembly of Youth in Brussels, Belgium; and the International Student conference in Leiden, Netherlands.

Meanwhile, the White House confirmed the situation had come to the personal attention of President Johnson. But a spokesman denied a report in the New York Times that Johnson had instructed the CIA to close out all secret programs of aid to student groups.

In a statement, President Johnson today ordered "a careful review of any government activities that may endanger" the "integrity and independence" of America's educational institutions.

George Christian, White House press secretary, said a student, whom he did not identify, talked recently with

Douglass Cater, Presidential assistant, "and explained his knowledge of the situation."

Cater informed the President of this discussion, he said, and Johnson immediately referred the matter to the undersecretary of state, Nicholas Katzenbach, "because of the student exchange aspect and because conferences in other nations were involved in this."

At the state department, Robert J. McCloskey, press officer, was bombarded with inquiries but said he was unable to provide any new information.

McCloskey was asked to present a series of questions to Katzenbach, including queries about whether the White House had ordered suspension of all such subsidies by the CIA, whether other student or young peoples groups have been subsidized in addition to N. S. A., how much money has been paid out by the CIA and to whom, and what instructions Johnson has given Katzenbach for dealing with the subject of CIA subsidies.

Cites Draft Deferments

McCloskey said he would see what could be done about the question. Asked when answers might be forthcoming, he said he did not know, and added "perhaps never."

The draft deferment disclosure came from Rep. Robert

W. Kastenmeier (D., Wis.), who said he had information that top officers of the N. S. A. automatically received a 2A occupational deferment.

"It goes with the job," Kastenmeier, one of eight House members who yesterday called upon Johnson to order an inquiry "at the highest level" of N. S. A.'s link with the CIA.

Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, selective service director, was en route back to Washington from a trip and could not be reached for direct comment. But a selective service spokesman quoted Hershey as saying he knew of no special treatment for N. S. A. officers.

Magazine Tells Deferments

The spokesman added that "six of these men in N. S. A. have their classifications under appeal." He said he did not have their names.

Ramparts magazine said in an article for its forthcoming issue that the CIA's financial backing of some N. S. A. programs helped association staff members get deferments.

"No N. S. A. staff members... were drafted," the magazine said. "The [central intelligence] agency looks after its own."

A N. S. A. spokesman said it was "absolutely untrue" that the top officers got automatic draft deferments.

"This is proven," he said, "by the fact the present draft status of Gene Groves and Rick Stearns [president and vice president for international affairs] is 1-A."

Carried on Spy Work

The spokesman said last year's president, Phillip Sherburne, won a draft exemption, not thru the CIA but on the

basis of a personal appearance before a draft appeals board.

The student group's connection with the spy agency was confirmed by government officials after Ramparts announced in newspaper ads that it would expose "how the CIA has infiltrated and subverted the world of American student leaders."

The Evening Star said members of the four student organizations carried on a limited amount of intelligence work for the CIA, making confidential reports on overseas youth activities and on foreign youth leaders visiting the United States.

CIA funds for the four groups were channeled thru foundations, the newspaper said. It identified the principal donor as the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs.

In New York, personnel at the foundation's headquarters said all officials in a position to comment were tied up in meetings. The Evening Star quoted the foundation's director, a former N. S. A. president, Harry Lunn, as saying his group was "not a CIA front."